

Hampden Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
for
December 20, 2005

Present: Ed Steltzer (Chair), Bob Osborn, Mark McCollough, Don Katnik, and Wally Jakubas (Secretary). Guests: Doug Smith and Daryl Ginn

Item 1: New Subdivision - Shaw Hill

Doug Smith and Daryl Ginn presented a proposal for a new 56-acre subdivision off of the Shaw Hill road. They proposed to set aside 2.76 acres of open space for the town, which is in line with the town ordinance requiring a set-aside for open space that is equivalent to 5% of the acreage of the development. The open space acreage was in the back-center of the subdivision and abutted other undeveloped land.

The Conservation Commission (CC) did not see a high degree of value for the proposed open space, and we discussed whether cash in lieu could be accepted instead of the 2.76 acres of open space. The argument was made that the money could put in the town's open space fund to purchase of a larger piece of property that would be more consistent with the Beginning with Habitat program. Bob Osborne informed us that it was the developer's prerogative to offer land for open space rather than cash in lieu. He stated that given the current payment rate for cash in lieu for open space, we would only get about \$11,000. The monetary value of the proposed open space was worth much more than that. The Commission decided that a comprehensive approach was needed if we were going to tackle the issue of obtaining quality land for open space. Mark McCollough made the motion to accept the offer of open space made by Mr. Smith and Mr. Ginn. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2: Approval of May meeting minutes

Minutes for the May meeting on recycling at the Hampden Transfer Station were reviewed and approved. It was suggested that these minutes be used in January, when we plan our annual goals.

Item 3: Beginning with Habitat

We discussed making a concerted effort in implementing the Beginning with Habitat program this year. To facilitate this, it was suggested the Conservation Commission should work more closely with the Open Space Committee board. We decided to invite Tom Brand to our January meeting to discuss various options for implementing Beginning with Habitat. The Commission also volunteered to review plat plans to identify open space for the Open Space Committee.

Item 4: Goal Setting

The following goals were suggested for 2006:

1. Implement Beginning with Habitat
2. Signage for Open Space
3. Survey Dorothea Dix Park
4. Work with the Open Space Committee on identifying and creating more open space
5. Continue to work on recycling
6. Set criteria for the Conservation Award

7. Do at least one tree planting

Item 5: Officers and Membership

We need to elect officers in January. Howard Jones may be interested in serving on the Conservation Commission.

Item 6: Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for January 24th.